ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,

For 1977.

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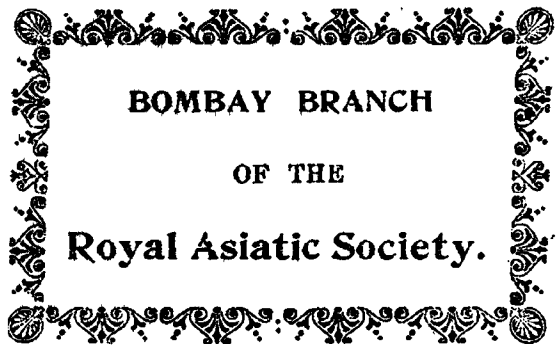

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Sambat Year 1977 (A. D. 1920—21).

Personnel.

The Superintendent continued to be on duty throughout the whole year, out of which he spent 115 days out in camp. The overseer and the typist availed themselves of privilege leave, the former for three weeks and the latter for one month.

Conservation.

Owing to the unfortunate want of funds only three monuments received the attention of the Department in respect of Conservation. They are: (1) the Stupa and the Monastery at Pandrethan; (2) the Dhathamandir, and (3) the Chashma-i-Shahi garden.

(1) As is well known, Pandrethan or Puranadhisthana, "the old capital", is very probably the site of the original Srinagar, the city founded by Asoka as his capital of Kashmir. Among its extensive ruins a few have been partially excavated. The chief of them are a couple of *stupas* and a monastery. With the exception of the scanty remnants of a staircase, no portion of one of the two *stupas* remains standing. The carved facing of the second *stupa* has also almost entirely disappeared; but a great part of the core of the basement and the drum is still standing. It is built of rough stone boulders in mud. Though it is practically certain that the *stupa*, when complete, was rectangular, with one or more offsets on each side; yet the core was found to be circular. As it had fallen down in many places, it was considered advisable to underpin it without altering its shape. Some of the walls of the monastery were similarly underpinned.

(2) The temple known as Dhathamandir is situated on the Jhelum Valley Road, two miles below Mohora, and, being the very first monument that visitors come across on their entry into the Valley, its dilapidated condition has often been commented upon. An estimate was framed for its repairs on the lines of the conservation note and submitted to the Durbar (*vide* this office No. 56 dated 13th May 1920) for sanction.

As the work was of an urgent nature and it was apprehended that delay might occur in the grant of funds for the purpose, permission of the Durbar was obtained for the expenditure of Rs. 4,000, provided for the excavation of the Martanda temple, on this work.

Items 2—6, 9, 10, 12, and 16 of the conservation note were attended to during the year under report.

(3) In my last year's report the partial repairs to the interior of the Chashma-i-Shahi garden and the *baradaris* were described. A Mughal gateway of the usual type was constructed this year, in the middle of the cross-wall at the lower end of the garden. There can hardly be any doubt that there was originally an entrance of this kind on this side of the garden, for it is an invariable rule in all Mughal gardens that the gateway should face the principal watercourse which bisects the garden longitudinally. The structure is built of

mixed brick and stone masonry covered by a thick coat of a specially prepared lime plaster, consisting of a thoroughly mixed compound of lime, *Surkhi*, hemp fibres, and gum. The plaster, therefore, possesses extra adhesive properties, and is expected to last a fairly long time if a little attention is given to it from time to time.

In addition to the erection of the gateway, the Public Works Department, at the suggestion of this Department completed the extension of the motor road, right up to the steps of the garden entrance, besides doing other minor repairs to the *baradaris* and the enclosure walls.

Excavations at Harwan.

The village of Harwan is situated two miles beyond Shalimar. It was known to Kalhana under the name of Shadarhadvana, "grove of six saints". He states that Nagarjuna, a famous Buddhist patriarch, lived here in the reign of Kanishka. The only clue which Harwan afforded of being a site of antiquarian interest was the occasional washing down of carved bricks from the hill slope by heavy rains. Some of these bricks have been lying in the Srinagar Museum for the last twenty years or so. Before, however, application could be made for provision of funds for its excavation, it was necessary to have some idea of the approximate Archæological value of the site. Trial diggings were accordingly started. After a few days had been spent in feeling our way round the site we struck upon a few rubble stone walls which eventually turned to be the ruins of a *stupa* and a set of chapels. The remnants of a carved brick pavement round the *stupa* were also found; but their fragmentary condition, coupled with the fact of their belonging to several different patterns joined with each other without any considerations of harmony, seems to suggest that they have been transplanted from an earlier structure.

The *stupa* is rectangular. The basement consists of three steps which are in existence. There is a single flight of steps which faces west. The surrounding wall likewise is built of rubble stones.

Round about the *stupa*, traces were also found of other structures of different styles and probably belonging to different periods. Among these the most notable is a pebble wall. It is several feet thick; the facing consists entirely of small pebbles, not more than an inch or so in diameter, built in mud. It is probable that the face was covered with a coat of plaster.

A little less than a furlong higher up the hill-side was found a fragment of a wall which appears to be intermediate between the pebble and the rubble styles of masonry. For want of a better name it may, for the present, be called the diaper-pebble style. The facing consists of a number of large stones placed at different intervals, varying from a few inches to several feet, from each other: the interspaces are filled with the small pebbles mentioned above. Outside this wall were also found the remnants of a brick pavement which like the pavement of the *stupa* below does not seem to be original.

Among the minor antiquities, the most notable are (1) a stone seal and two terracotta plaques bearing the sacred Buddhist creed, "Ye dharma hetuprabhavah" etc.; (2) a few fragmentary limbs of terracotta images; (3) a large number of clay Ushnishas; (4) a few bricks depicting scenes from life, such as musical concerts, hunting scenes, etc.; and (5) a couple of copper coins probably belonging to the mediæval times.

Literary Work.

The Superintendent prepared an illustrated Handbook of the Archæological and Numismatic Sections of the Sri Pratap Singh Museum. It was submitted to the Durbar (*vide* this office No. 323 dated 27-7-1920) with the request that a speedy decision might be arrived at as to whether the State would or would not publish it. The handbook is planned on the model of the "Handbook of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston" and is expected to be useful.

The Archæological Survey of India has kindly undertaken to publish the writer's "Monograph on the Antiquities of Bhimber and Rajauri" as a Government Memoir.

Library.

During the year under report 43 books were added to the office library. Out of these 20 were purchased and the rest were presented by the Government of India. In my last year's Annual Report I have dwelt on the necessity of the Durbar's giving special attention to the establishment of an adequate Archæological library in Srinagar. With this object in view, I have, in my current year's Budget proposals, applied for a special grant of Rs. 3,000 and a recurring grant of Rs. 750 per annum for the purchase of books and periodicals.

Photographs.

Eighty-seven photographs were taken this year, which shows an increase of 24 over the figure of the last year. The list of photographs is appended below.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure on Archæological Works during the year under report amounted to Rs. 9,856-13-6. The details are :—

Conservation of Dhathamandir	Rs.	3,823-14-0
Construction of the gateway at the Chashma-i-Shahi garden	,,	3,000- 5-9
Shankracharya temple	,,	83-13 0
Martanda temple	,,	42-13-0
Pattan temple	,,	32- 6-0
Land compensation at Bijbehara ..	,,	1,374-15-6
Miscellaneous repairs to ancient monuments, general surveys and trial excavations, etc.	,,	1,498-10-3

RAM CHANDRA KAK,

Superintendent of Archæology,

Jammu and Kashmir State.

List of Photographs.

No.	Description.
657	Terracotta heads excavated at Ushkar.
658	do. do. do. do.
659	do. do. do. do.
660	do. do. do. do.
661	do. do. do. do.
662	Fragment of an image excavated at Pandrethan.
663	Buddhist seals from Leh.
664	Fragments of terracotta arms excavated at Ushkar.
665	Buddhist seals from Leh.
666	Sri Pratap Singh Museum, Srinagar.
667	Buddha from Vicharnag.
668	Another Buddha image from Vicharnag.
669	Ancient ruins at Vicharnag.
670	Pottery excavated at Harwan.
671	Mount Mahadeva from Harwan.
672	General view of excavations at Harwan.
673	Trial trenches at Harwan.
674	Pebble wall excavated at Harwan.
575	Coins in Srinagar Museum.
676	do. do. do.
677	do. do. do.
678	do. do. do.
679	Dhathamandir : General view from south-east.
680	do. do. do. from north-west.
681	Dhathamandir : View of Gateway.
682	Temple of Buniar : View from north.
683	do. do. do. from north-west.
684	Buniar temple : View of courtyard showing row of cells.
685	Buniar temple : do. of gateway from the courtyard.
686	Buniar temple : View from north-west.
687	do. do. do. do.
688	Buniar temple : View of courtyard showing row of cells.
689	Buniar temple : View from north-west.
690	Buniar temple : View of gateway from outside.
691	do. do. do. from inside.
692	Ruins at Fatehgarh : View from south.
693	do. do. do. from west.
694	Image of Nrisimha from Budamulla.
695	Siva-linga at Koti-tirtha in Baramula.
696	Temple of Wangath.
697	do. do.
698	do. do.
699	do. do.
700	Image of Vishnu at Vicharnag.
701	Temple at Thyun near Kangan.
702	Avantisvami Temple at Avantipura : View from west.
703	Sculptures on gateway of above.
704	do. do. do.
705	General view of Malangpura.
706	Malangpura ruins.
707	Temple at Laduv.
708	do. do.
709	The Martanda ruins.
710	The temple of Martanda.
711	Colonnade of the Martanda temple.
712	Sculpture on the wall of the Martanda temple.
713	do. do. do. do.
714	do. do. do. do.

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS.—(*concluded*).

No.	Description.
715	Niche on the Entrance of the Temple cave at Bumzu.
716	Ruins at Kolar.
717	An ancient architectural stone at Kolar.
718	View of the Pahlgam valley.
719	Temple at Mamal.
720	Narastan temple: Gateway.
721	General view of Narastan temple.
722	Stelœ on the spring at Kothsu.
723	The Shrine on the hill at Kothsu.
724	Temple in the Manasbal lake.
725	The Jarogha at Manasbal.
726	The Manasbal lake.
727	Srinagar carpets.
728	do. do.
729	do. do.
730	do. do.
731	do. do.
732	do. do.
733	Brick tiles excavated at Harwan.
734	do. do. do. do.
735	do. do. do. do.
736	A picture of Vishnu.
737	do. do.
738	Antiquities excavated at Harwan.
739	do. do. do.
740	do. do. do.
741	do. do. do.

RAM CHANDRA KAK,

Superintendent of Archæology,

JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE.